Remarks/Arguments

Independent claims 1, 26, and 29 have been cancelled and replaced with parallel new independent claims 32-34, with changes made to further clarify the claims as suggested by the Examiner during the interview on November 12, 2009. Claims 2-4, 8, 11-19, 21-25, 27-28, and 30-31 have been amended. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 2-25, 27-28, and 30-34 will be pending in the present application. Support for the new claims and the amendments to the claims can be found, for example, in Figs. 10A-10B and Figs. 10C-10D, as well as the accompanying description thereof.

The Applicant expresses gratitude for the in-person interview on November 12th of 2009. The amended claims and the remarks of this supplemental amendment are consistent with the issues discussed during the interview. In order to clarify the claims, new independent claims 32-34 were developed to reorganize the claimed elements from parallel cancelled independent claims 1, 26, and 29. The applicant's associated **Remarks/Arguments** relative to the previously pending independent claims 1, 26, and 29 presented in the Amendment filed on September 28, 2009, are equally applicable to currently pending independent claims 32, 33, and 34. Thus, Applicant submits that pending independent claims 32, 33, and 34 are allowable over the prior art cited in the Office Action of June 26, 2009 for at least the same reasons presented in the September 28, 2009 Amendment. The new replacement claims 32-34 simply supplement the applicant's existing arguments by further clarifying the claims.
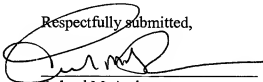
The new independent claims were developed specifically to address the opinions and concerns expressed by the Examiner at the interview, as well as to attempt to incorporate other suggestions made by the Examiner. As a result, for example, new independent claim 32 now specifies that **the internal hardware firewall creates a protected portion of the microchip**

and an unprotected portion of the microchip, as clearly shown in Figures 10A-10D and 10K-10Q and associated textual specification. The **protected portion of the microchip** specifically includes the master control unit, that is configured with hardware and firmware, as well as at least one of the processing units of the microprocessor. The new **unprotected portion of the microchip** specifically includes one or more of the processing units of the microprocessor. **None of these newly claimed structural features are shown in Force, G** ("Portable data encryption approaches" - retrieved from IEEE) **or Shaw** et al. (U.S. Patent no. 5,754,766). Independent claims 32 and 33 recite similar recitations to claim 31.

Dependent claims 2, 4, 8, 11-13, 15-19, 21-23, 27, and 30 have all been amended to depend from independent claims 32-34, and have been further amended to be consistent with the independent claims. Certain structural features from pending dependent claims 2 and 8 were also incorporated into each of the three new independent claims 32-34.

Favorable consideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowance is requested. Please charge any shortage in the fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 25, 2009

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